

Evening Telegraph

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1864.

WATERFARING.

From the German.
I knocked in vain at the rich man's door.
A farther is all he gives to the poor.
Gently I tapped at Affection's gate:
Ten others were waiting; I was too late.
Pain would approach if man's castled abode,
No spur had I, no pauper's robe.

Where Nature taile, a pittoresque gain,
I met only rage, starvation, and pain.

Through life I have sought the shade of Content;
It beckoned, but vanished when nearer I went.

One cottage I found; 'twas gloomy and low;

Thither for refuge at last I may go.

Its portals are open to welcome each guest;

There many before me in silence sought rest.

A VISIT TO THE GREAT VOLCANO OF KILAUEA.

Among all the objects of natural scenery in the world, the one pre-eminent for its terrible grandeur is the great crater of Kilauea. Although this lake of molten lava, with its clouds of sulphur and billows of fire, has been repeatedly described, its constant changes make it an object of ever-renewed interest. It was recently visited by Walter M. Lummis, an old Californian, who gives a stirring description of its present appearance in the San Francisco *Bulletin* of October 22, from which we take the following extract:

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

DOWN IN THE ABYSS.

The weather on this and the succeeding night was inspiring for a visit to the crater; and notwithstanding the cold, our party favored with a night visit to the burning lake on December 14, M., our preparations being completed, we started, intending to remain, if circumstances favored us, until the following morning. The weather was dubious, for a thick mist commenced falling as we began the descent. Following our guides, we scrambled down at the first bench, and moved along over the trodden path, carefully avoiding the gaps and steam cracks. In looking from the upper bank one does not realize the depth and dimensions of this immense bowl in the earth, but the descent and consequent fatigues are great. A walk of some half or three-quarters of a mile, through the gashes and sometimes descending, brings you to the lower floor of the crater—an impressive sight, as if molten iron had rolled up in huge billows, and cooled upon the gravelly shore, from which you step upon their adamantine surface. What from the upper bank appears a comparative level, proves to be rough and jagged, and riven into a thousand fantastic and tortuous forms, changing with every advancing step. Deep clefts occur frequently, caused by the cracking of the lava, of from six inches to four feet in breadth, varying in depth to four feet or more. Across this rugged and awful pavement you advance towards the Stygian lake in the centre, passing now and again pinnacles of lava rock, sometimes thrown up in ridges like a mountain chain, at other times in isolated singleness. Several of these are miniature craters of themselves, thirty to fifty feet high, expelling flame and sulphurous vapors with the noise of an iron furnace. One remarkable manifestation of this kind bears a strong resemblance to a chapel in ruins, with its towers, and pinnacles, and battlemented walls still standing, and looking as if scared and blighted by fire. This had apparently been given the name of "Hell's Chapel." By direction of our guides diverged from the direct path, deftlying to the left hand, in order to show us the caves, as they are called. These are immense chasms in the lava floor, down which we clambered from 30 to 50 feet, and thence under the overhanging roof of broken lava, for a distance of 150 to 200 feet, further to the great peril of life and limb. We were preceded by our guides with lanterns. Spiracles of lava, incrusted with a species of gypsum, are here obtained, and stalagmites of most curious and beautiful formation sometimes reward the patient labor of the explorer. But the caves themselves are very pits of Hades, from which after an hour or more exposed to the streaming dark mists, we were glad to emerge once again to the light.

THE BURNING LAKE.

"Resuming our path towards the Burning Lake, as the day declined, with careful step we clambered down the inequalities and mount the concealed waves of lava for about a mile and a quarter; but long before we come to the brim of the abyss we are made aware of its vicinity by the roar of the tempestuous sea. It is impossible to conceive in words the grandeur of this terrible scene. The reader is apt to think the relator carried away by the enthusiasm of his feelings, and fears he may be listening to the language of hyperbole and exaggeration; but no language can truly describe what is absolutely indescribable. For the last half century travelers have, at various times, visited the crater of Kilauea, and hardly any two visitors have agreed in their description. This is not strange either, for this ever-burning and unquenchable lake—this awful vale for the pent-up flames of earth's centre—is ever changing its aspect, and its features.

circle the island in the centre, while every few minutes, in one or other part of the surface, the red and iron-red world commences to burn in fiery throats, momentarily accelerating in force, propelling the incandescent matter to a height of 200 and 300 feet—indeed oftentimes so high as the rim upon which we stood. These high jets would run into another, until frequently as many as six or eight were in furious action together, when their united power would suddenly open a blazing seam across the blackening surface of the lake, which had rapidly risen since the convolution of two or three minutes previous, and then the liquid fluid, released from the hardening crust which kept it down, would roll in flaming embers across the whole surface, and then dash upon the Stygian shore."

FACTS CONCERNING THE VOLCANO.

The crater of Kilauea is situated on the eastern bank of Mauna Loa, at an altitude of about 8000 feet, and is approached by a very not difficult trail from Hilo of 30 miles. A shorter ride of 10 miles is made across the lava bed of Apapa, on the south-eastern side of the volcano, and the distance is covered with less fatigue than the journey via Hilo, but vessels rarely touch at that point. Passengers by steamer from Honolulu sometimes land at Kailua, on the western coast, and ride across the trail to Hilo; but it is a rough journey of 80 or 100 miles. For many reasons the trip by Hilo is preferable.

The volcano has been in positive activity since it first known to have existed, and in all probability for ages previously; but its activity varies greatly at different times. Several eruptions have occurred recently with the commencement of our generation. Early in 1843, for three years, the volcano was in a state of violent energy, in the latter part of January of that year a great eruption took place on Mauna Loa, when a new crater was formed at a much higher altitude than that of Kilauea. The lava torrent took then a northward direction, and rolling over the plateau of another mountain plunged into the sea, destroying a small fishing village in its course. Observers of this phenomenon, who hastened to Hawaii, were repaid by a spectacle of unparalleled grandeur. The deep road 250 feet above the crater, a cone of stone, and the plume of smoke curved along the mountain side like a fiery serpent, leaping in a bold flame from precipice to precipice.

When Mr. Ellis visited Kilauea, in 1822, he and his associates saw 51 conical crater islands of various sizes, rising round the edge, or from the surface of the burning lake. Half of those emitted smoke or flame, or vomited streams of lava. Tradition, and the observations of the residents of the Islands, all go to prove that the volcano is in a constant transition state, sometimes more active, sometimes less, though for the past year or two, its eruptive activity has undoubtedly increased, notwithstanding its occasional short outbursts. Estimates of its present eruptions vary, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."

THE CRATER.

The crater is of gigantic dimensions. It is of an oval form, upwards of three miles in length, two miles in width, with perpendicular walls or sides, from 600 to 1000 feet in height, paved with a black flooring of lava. In its centre is the living lake of fire—the surface of which cannot at present be seen from the outer rim of the crater, and which in the day-time, that position shows only a smoking pit—surrounded by jagged walls of dissolution, from which the smoke slowly and continually ascends and rolls off, generally to the northwest. To the right hand are the sulphur beds, native deposits containing thousands of tons of sulphur. In front and on each side of the crater are the rifts and chasms in the earth, known as "steam vents," through which vapor continually arises, and in which the heat is of various degrees, from moderately warm to scalding. The phenomena exhibited by the action of this steaming steam on the atmospheric air—on moonlight nights—are said at times to be wonderful and grand. A jagged pathway, a short distance from the house, leads down into what may be termed the first basin of the crater, where stunted trees and ferns contend for a foothold on the very borders of eternal fire and ruin. Here also the ohelo, a juicy berry, hangs abundant on the bushes, and the strawberries ripen in the sun."